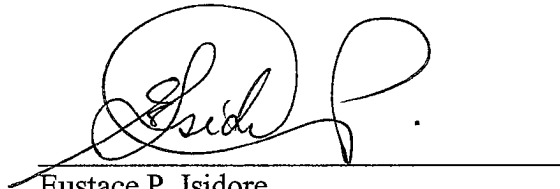


REMARKS

Applicants submit this preliminary amendment in which the features of the two sets of dependent method claims have been incorporated into their respective independent method claims and all other claims have been canceled. Applicants are not conceding in this application that the originally-presented independent claims and their dependent claims are not allowable on their own. The present claim amendment and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the pending claim by placing the independent claim in better condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney of record at (512) 343-6116 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isidore', is written over a horizontal line.

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